



Winter is Just Around the Corner...and so is the New Winter-Based SkyWarn Spotter Training!

The SkyWarn Spotter Training has been revamped with an emphasis on winter weather, specifically the weather we deal with here in the Sierra and Western Nevada. Trainings will be coming to a location near you soon! For currently scheduled trainings, please check the back page for dates and locations. We will be offering additional trainings next spring and early summer in different locations. If you are unable to attend one of the trainings in person, we will also be offering a brand new interactive online training using Go-to-Meeting. You will be able to call in to the training from your place of choice and then following along with the slideshow on your computer. Dates for these calls have not yet been established, but we will email you and also put the information on our webpage for anyone interested.



Early Season Storm Brings Significant Snow to the Sierra

An early season winter storm the first week of October brought significant cooling, wind, rain, and snow to the region. Snow was reported as low as 4500 feet elevation Wednesday night, 10/5, and Thursday morning, 10/6, following a strong cold front. In the Sierra, locations above 8000 feet picked up anywhere from 18 to 24 inches of snow with a few inches reported at Lake Tahoe level. Tahoe did receive a large amount of precipitation, but much of it fell as rain. Some decent rain also

fell into Western Nevada with totals between a tenth and a half of an inch of rain.

Much of this snow melted when a warm system brought additional rain to the area only 5 days later, followed by above normal temperatures.

This week will bring a pattern change to colder and more unsettled conditions.

What does this mean for our upcoming winter? Check out the CPC's outlook on page 2.

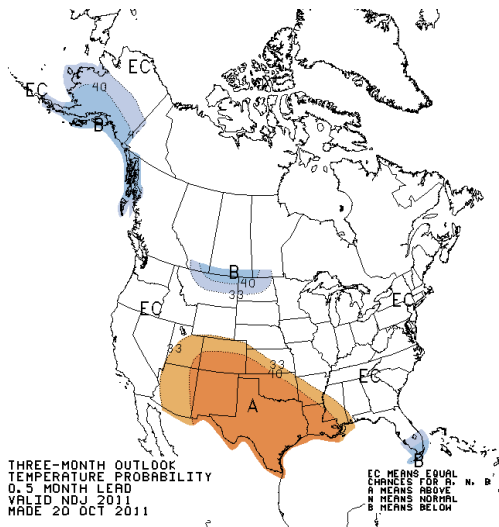
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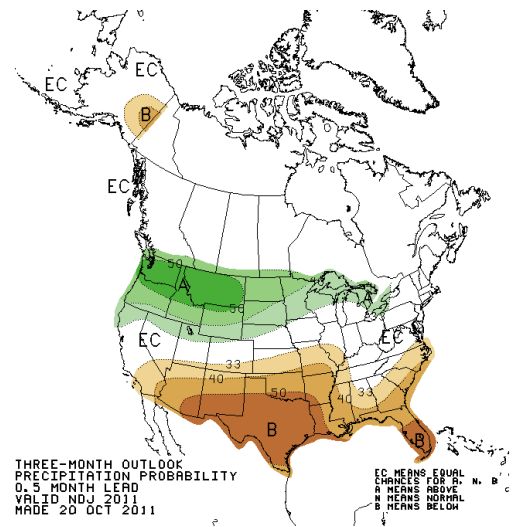
Our Mission:

"The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, hydrologic and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NWS data and products form a national information database and infrastructure which can be used by other governmental agencies, the private sector, the public, and the global community."

Winter Outlook from the CPC (Climate Prediction Center)



The CPC outlook for the November, December, January time frame can be seen in the images flanking this article. The image on the left is showing the three month outlook temperature probability and the one on the right is the three month outlook precipitation probability. Both are currently indicating equal chances for normal, above normal, or below normal temperatures and precipitation. However, in a La Niña pattern, there is typically better chances for above normal precipitation north of Tahoe. La Niña conditions are still being observed in the Central Pacific and are expected to continue and strengthen into the winter with a La Niña Advisory in place.



Road Conditions

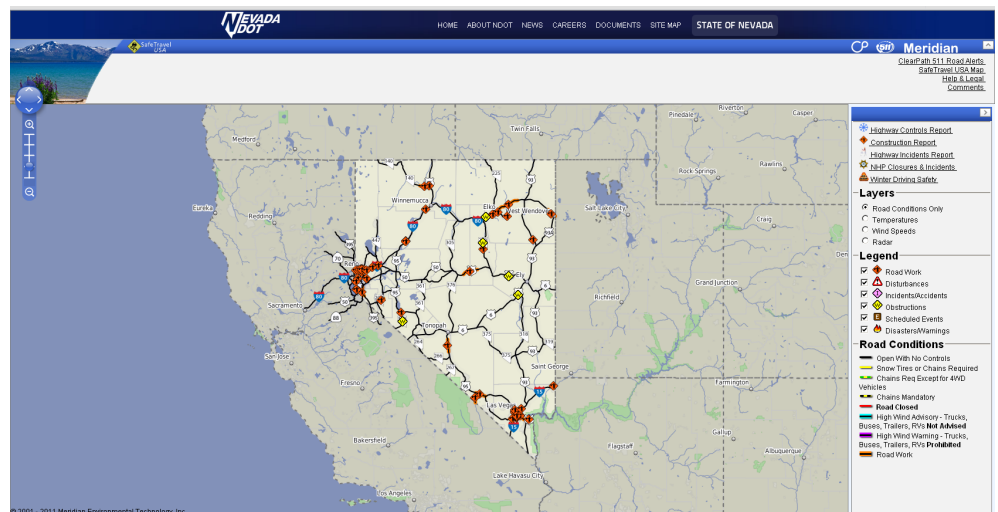
Are you traveling in the mountains this winter? If so, you are probably wondering what the road conditions are and if there are any chain requirements or road closures. There are some excellent websites you can use to check out this information and they are the same sites we use within the office to answer any calls we receive about the subject. The following links will take you to either CalTrans or Nevada DOT websites:

<http://www.getacross80.com/>

<http://caltrans511.dot.ca.gov/>

<http://www.video.dot.ca.gov/>

<http://www.safetravelusa.com/nv/>



CoCoRaHS

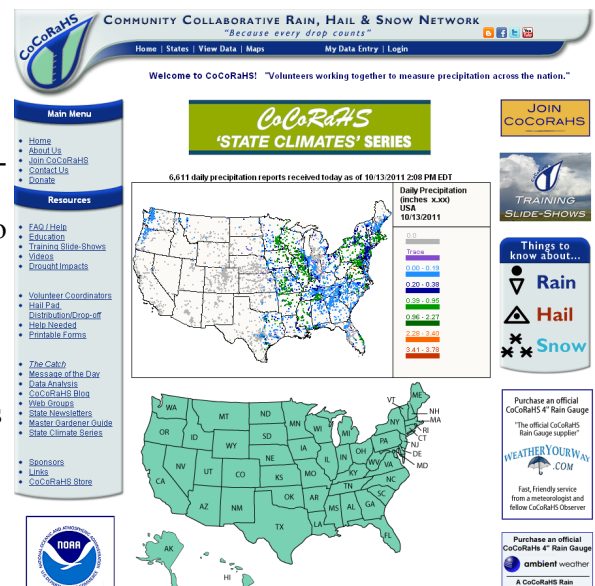
Are you crazy about weather? Do you want to help your local community by providing valuable weather information that will aid in the protection of both lives and property? If so, we have a great program for you! CoCoRaHS, or the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network (cocorahs.org).

CoCoRaHS is a nationwide, non-profit group of volunteers who take daily measurements of rain, hail, and snowfall, and post their data online for a variety of organizations to view and utilize. The program began after a devastating flash flood hit Fort Collins, Colorado in July 1997. Five people were killed, and over \$200 million worth of damages occurred as a result of this disaster. CoCoRaHS (established by the Colorado Climate Center at Colorado State University) was born from this disaster in order to provide scientists, local emergency managers, and the public with critical, sometimes lifesaving information regarding precipitation in their area.

A variety of organizations benefit from the CoCoRaHS network. For example, your local National Weather Service office in Reno, NV will use the data to aid in decisions on the issuance of watch and warning products for potentially life threatening weather, as well as to help us verify our forecasts, and for research in order to gain a better understanding of the local weather patterns that affect Eastern California and Western Nevada. Local emergency managers can also use the data to prepare for potential disasters in their communities, thereby saving both lives and property. Other groups that use and benefit from CoCoRaHS data include individuals who make water management and irrigation decisions, engineers, insurance adjusters, the United States Department of Agriculture, mosquito control personnel, ranchers and farmers, and schools.

Volunteers for the program do not have to be current weather spotters for the National Weather Service. Therefore, this is an ideal program for your friends, neighbors, and even local school or scouting groups to participate in. A short training presentation is provided on the website (www.cocorahs.org) under the link "Training Slide Show" (you can view the training slide show before joining CoCoRaHS in order to get an idea of what is required of volunteer observers).

CoCoRaHS is a community based volunteer project and differs from the spotter program because reports are made daily, even if there was no precipitation measured. Anyone with an enthusiasm for weather and a desire to serve their local community can participate. All that is required is internet access, and a rain/snow gage (which can be purchased through CoCoRaHS (-a great holiday gift for the weather enthusiast in your family-)). For additional details on the program, contact Laura Edwards with the Desert Research Institute: Laura.Edwards@dri.edu.



New SkyWarn Spotter Trainings

Two new online spotter trainings were developed nationally to act as basic general trainings or refresher trainings for spotters. The first focuses on the role of the SkyWarn Spotter and can be found here:

http://www.meted.ucar.edu/spotter_training/spotter_role/index.htm

The second focuses on convection and recognizing features in thunderstorms:

http://www.meted.ucar.edu/spotter_training/convective/

I have previewed both trainings and while some items may not be significant weather features in our local area, they both have great information in

them. You may need to sign up with a COMET account to view both of these, but it is completely free and there are lots of other interesting weather related modules available for those interested. Even if you take these trainings, I still recommend taking a local training as well to obtain the special local weather knowledge in the area.

Stay Safe With a Winter Weather Kit

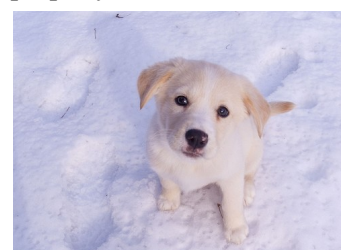
Be prepared before a storm strikes! Fully winterize your vehicle before winter season begins. It's also a good idea to carry a Winter Storm survival kit. This can include:

- Cell phone with a charger
- Blankets/sleeping bags
- Flashlight with extra batteries
- First Aid Kit
- Knife
- High-calorie, non-perishable food
- Extra clothing to stay dry
- Large, empty can to use as an emergency toilet. Tissues and paper towels for sanitary purposes.
- Small can and waterproof matches to melt snow for drinking water
- Sack of sand or cat litter for traction
- Shovel
- Windshield scraper and brush
- Tool Kit
- Tow Rope
- Battery booster cables
- Water container
- Compass and road maps



At home and at work the primary concerns are loss of heat, power, telephone service, and a shortage of supplies during a prolonged storm. It is a good idea to have the following items on hand:

- Flashlight with extra batteries
- A portable radio and/or NOAA Weather Radio to receive emergency information as these may be your only links to the outside during a significant winter storm.
- Extra food and water—high energy food that doesn't require cooking or refrigeration
- Extra medical supplies and baby items if necessary
- First-aid supplies
- Emergency heat source such as a fireplace, wood stove, or space heater (make sure to properly ventilate and to use the necessary precautions to prevent a fire or smoke inhalation)
- Fire extinguisher and a smoke alarm
- Don't forget your animals!
 - Move animals to sheltered areas
 - Make sure they have plenty of food and water available





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Working Together to Save Lives

Weather.gov/Reno

Also Look for
Us on
Facebook!

Upcoming Spotter Trainings:

Incline Village, CA: November 30, 2011 from 6 pm- 8 pm

Incline Fire Station Training Room

863 Tanger St, Incline Village, CA 89451

Loyalton, CA: December 1, 2011 from 6 pm- 8 pm

Social Hall

105 Beckwith St, Loyalton, CA 96118

Reno, NV: December 8, 2011 from 6pm- 8pm **

National Weather Service Office

2350 Raggio Pkwy, Reno, NV 89519

**Registration is required for this talk as space will be limited to 20 people. If we have a large enough request, an additional training will be added. To register, email: Dawn.Fishler@noaa.gov.

Fall and Winter Reporting

While it is always important to report significant weather year-round, this time of year we would especially like:

- Snow reports: How much fell and in how long of a period as well as current snow depth if applicable
- Heavy Rain and/or any flooding
- Strong and gusty winds above 45 mph
- Freezing Rain or freezing drizzle
- Low visibility due to any weather phenomenon such as heavy rain/snow or fog

Hi & Lois



Weather Humor Corner